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STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!
WEB OF CARNAGE
PART 2 OF 4
AND NOW -- SPIDER-CARNAGE
My life is fraying around me FASTER than a motorcycle jacket splashed with battery acid!
Though I'm really PETER PARKER, I've been going by the name of BEN REILLY for the past five years.
Meanwhile, thinking he was the REAL me, the man in my arms has been using my NAME and living my LIFE during all this time.
Only recently did he find out he was actually MY CLONE!
Five years ago, Pete and I FOUGHT --
-- and he apparently left me for DEAD in a Brooklyn smokestack!
At least that's what we believed until a few hours ago, when we visited the AVENGERS' temporary base on Long Island --
-- and learned that the SKELETON in the body bag --
-- the one recently found in that very SAME SMOKESTACK --
-- is probably my ORIGINAL CLONE!
SEE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN #3 FOR DETAILS -- Bob!
TOM DeFALCO WRITER
MARK BAGLEY PENCILER
LARRY MAHLSTEDT with RANDY EMBERLIN INKERS
BOB SHAREN COLORIST
MALIBU'S HUES SEPARATIONS
RICHARD STARKINGS AND COMICRAFT LETTERING
BOB BUDIANSKY EDITOR
BOB HARRAS ED. IN CHIEF

If that's true, what does that make PETER?

And, if that skeleton is the one who went chimney-diving, where was I?!

Unfortunately, such questions aren't my ONLY -- or even my most pressing -- PROBLEM!

Someone has taken to TERRORIZING the Manhattan streets by IMPERSONATING CARNAGE -- one of my deadliest enemies!

And then, I have a predicament of a far more PERSONAL nature...

HEEEY! THAT LOOKS LIKE SPIDER-MAN --!

FREEZE, YOU SICK GHOUL!

STOP OR I'LL SHOOT!

In order to TEST the skeleton --

-- I LIBERATED it from the city morgue!

IN SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN #2 – Bob!

NOT a maneuver designed to increase my popularity among NEW YORK'S FINEST!

W-WATCH THE WILD ACROBATICS, PAL!

M-MY STOMACH CAN'T TAKE THOSE TRIPLE SOMER-SAULTS!

HITCH-HIKERS SHOULDN'T COMPLAIN, PETE!

IT'S NOT MY FAULT YOU LOST YOUR OWN SPIDER-POWERS!

MAYBE NOT...BUT IT WILL BE YOUR FAULT...IF MY LAST MEAL SPLATTERS YOUR SPIFFY NEW COSTUME!

IT HAPPENED IN SPIDER-MAN: THE FINAL ADVENTURE #4 – Bob!

POINT TAKEN!

MAYBE YOU SHOULD WALK THE LAST FEW BLOCKS TO YOUR HOTEL.

GOOD IDEA!

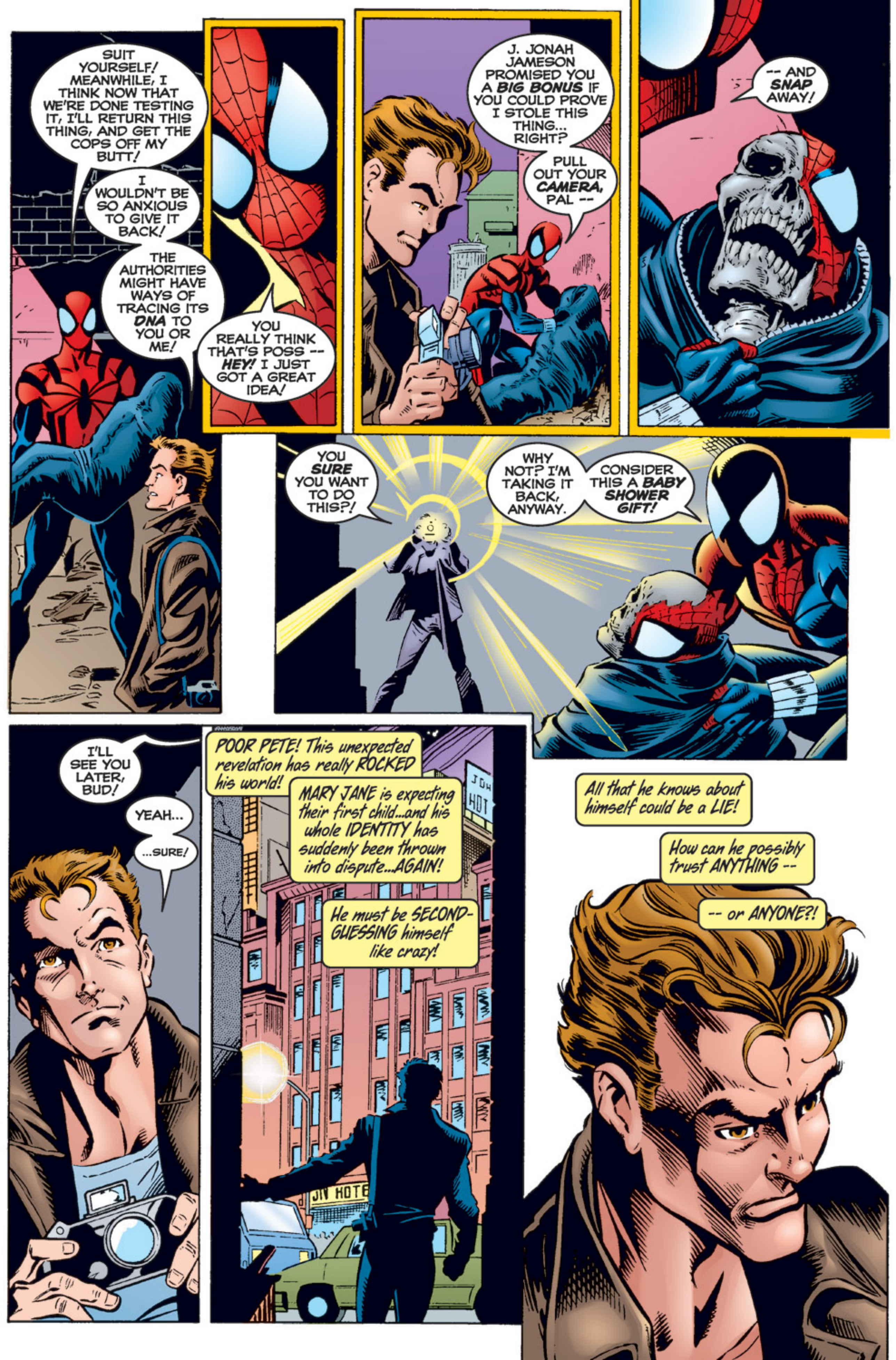
AND WHEN I GET THERE, I'M CALLING YOUR BUDDY, SEWARD TRAINER, AT THE HOSPITAL.

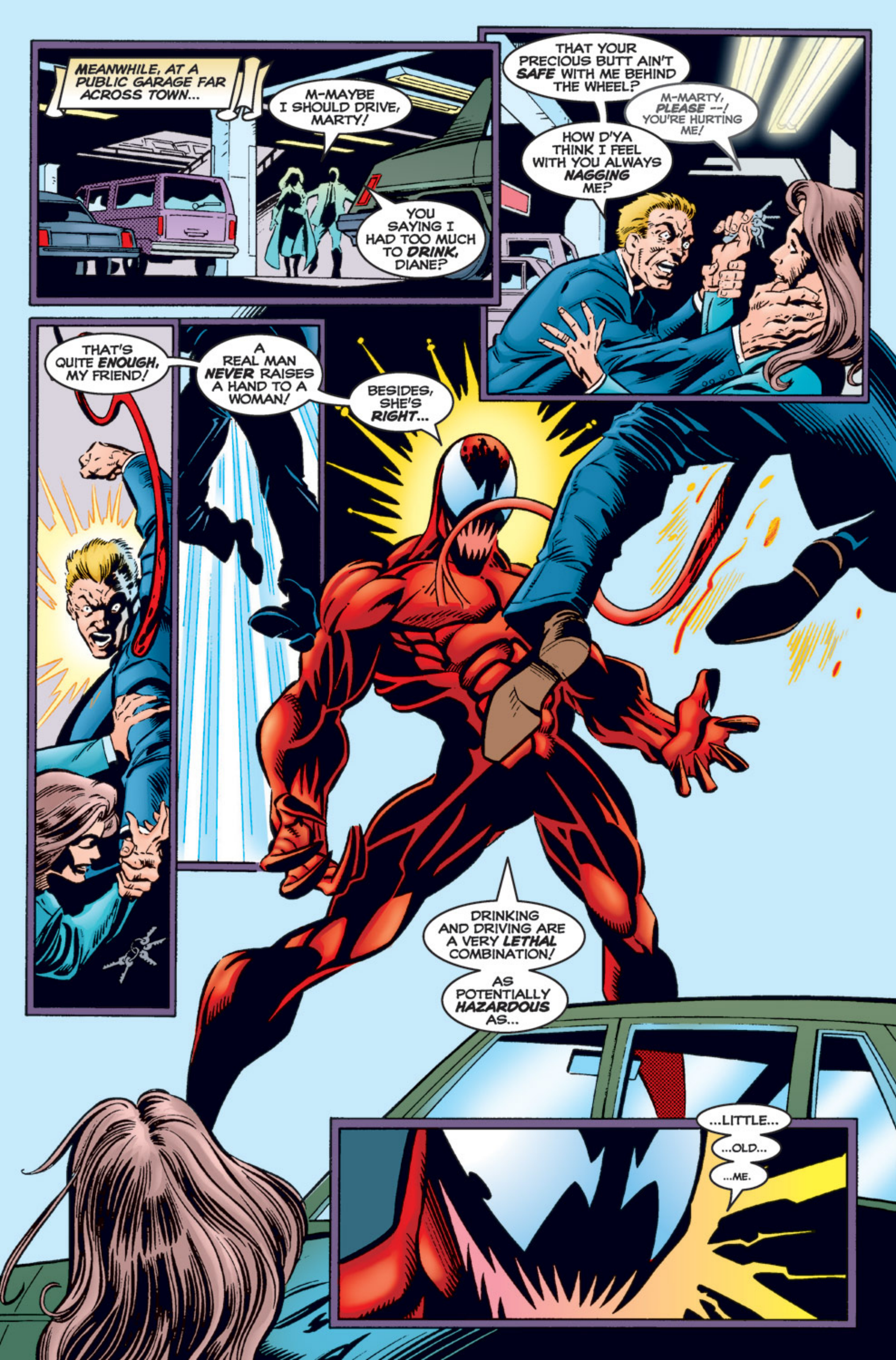
SO SOON? HE JUST CAME OUT OF HIS COMA.

BETWEEN THE AVENGERS' RESULTS ON THE SKELETON, AND THE TEST WE RAN ON SEWARD'S EQUIPMENT SHOWING I WAS A CLONE --

-- MY LIFE'S BECOME ONE BIG QUESTION MARK!

AND I WANT SOME ANSWERS!


SUIT YOURSELF! MEANWHILE, I THINK NOW THAT WE'RE DONE TESTING IT, I'LL RETURN THIS THING, AND GET THE COPS OFF MY BUTT!
I WOULDN'T BE SO ANXIOUS TO GIVE IT BACK!
THE AUTHORITIES MIGHT HAVE WAYS OF TRACING ITS DNA TO YOU OR ME!
YOU REALLY THINK THAT'S POSS -- HEY! I JUST GOT A GREAT IDEA!
J. JONAH JAMESON PROMISED YOU A BIG BONUS IF YOU COULD PROVE I STOLE THIS THING... RIGHT?
PULL OUT YOUR CAMERA, PAL --
-- AND SNAP AWAY!
YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS?!
WHY NOT? I'M TAKING IT BACK, ANYWAY.
CONSIDER THIS A BABY SHOWER GIFT!
I'LL SEE YOU LATER, BUD!
YEAH...
...SURE!
POOR PETE! This unexpected revelation has really ROCKED his world!
MARY JANE is expecting their first child...and his whole IDENTITY has suddenly been thrown into dispute...AGAIN!
He must be SECOND-GUESSING himself like crazy!
All that he knows about himself could be a LIE!
How can he possibly trust ANYTHING --
-- or ANYONE?!

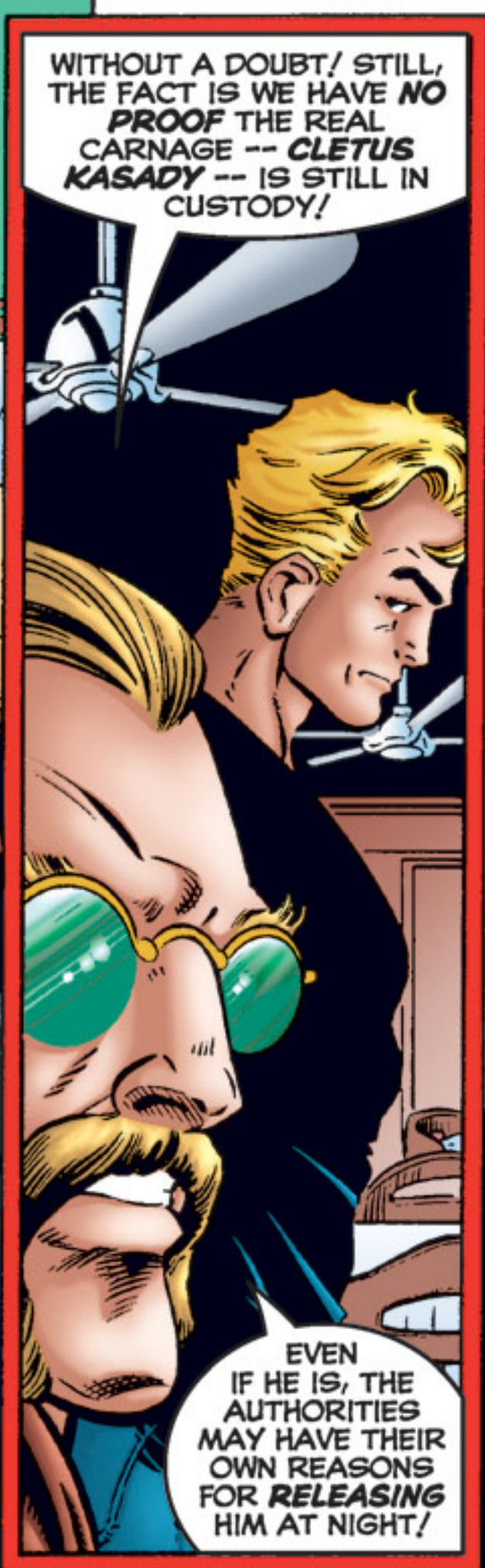

MEANWHILE, AT A PUBLIC GARAGE FAR ACROSS TOWN...
M-MAYBE I SHOULD DRIVE, MARTY!
YOU SAYING I HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK, DIANE?
THAT YOUR PRECIOUS BUTT AIN'T SAFE WITH ME BEHIND THE WHEEL?
M-MARTY, PLEASE --! YOU'RE HURTING ME!
HOW D'YA THINK I FEEL WITH YOU ALWAYS NAGGING ME?
THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH, MY FRIEND!
A REAL MAN NEVER RAISES A HAND TO A WOMAN!
BESIDES, SHE'S RIGHT...
DRINKING AND DRIVING ARE A VERY LETHAL COMBINATION!
AS POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS AS...
...LITTLE...
...OLD...
...ME.

AT THE TOP OF THE MORNING NEWS IS LAST NIGHT'S ASSAULT ON ACCOUNTANT MARTIN SKOLBURG --
The Daily Grind

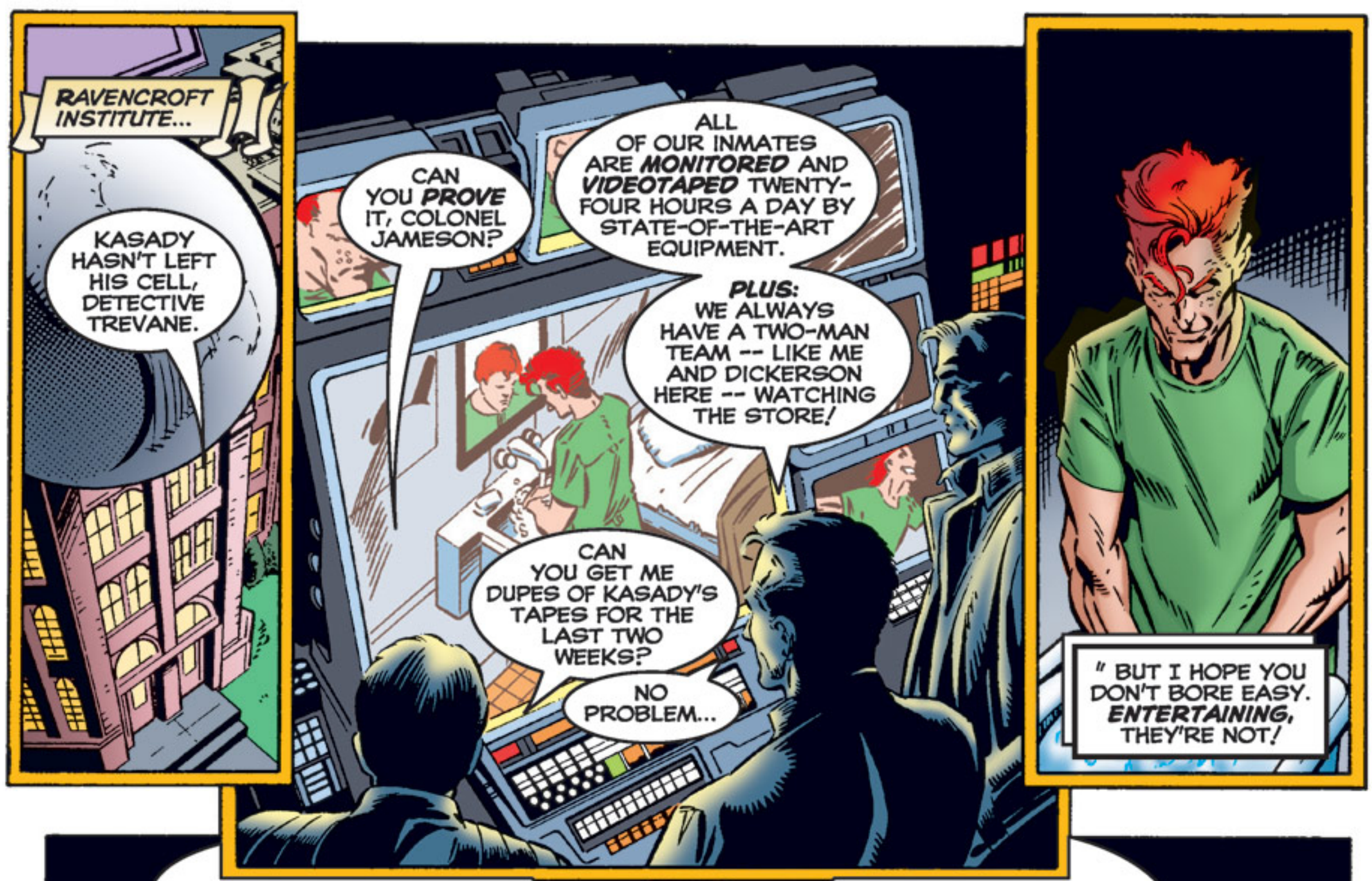
-- BY THE ALLEGED CARNAGE COPY-CAT!
Where IS she?
Why doesn't JESSICA answer her phone?
We need to talk...
I recently learned that she is the daughter of the burglar who, soon after I first became SPIDER-MAN --

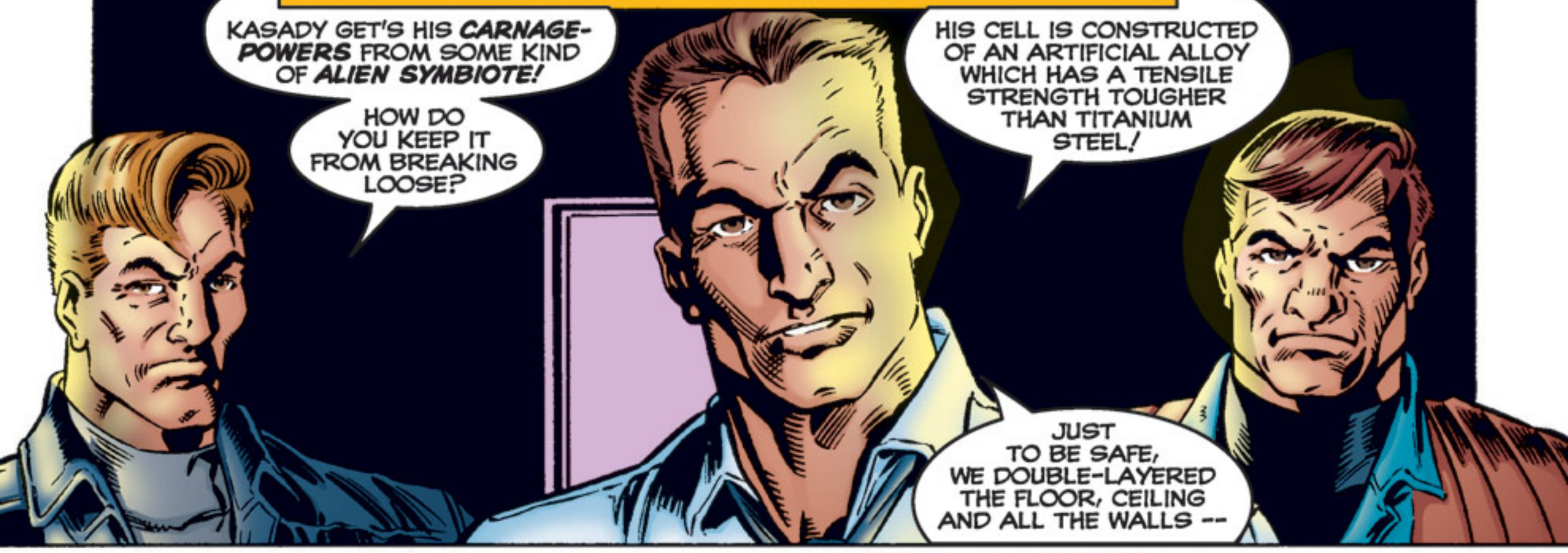
-- MURDERED my UNCLE BEN!
It was that TRAGEDY that helped me realize that with GREAT POWER, there must also come GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.
IN SENSATIONAL #3. – Bob

Too bad Jess's father never got the message! He died while battling PETER, who was the neighborhood WEB-SWINGER at the time!
IT'S SOME KIND OF COVER-UP, SHIRLEY! THERE'S NO CARNAGE COPYCAT!
YOU'VE SEEN TOO MANY EPISODES OF THE X-FILES, BUZZ!
THE NOW-CLASSIC AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #200. – Bob

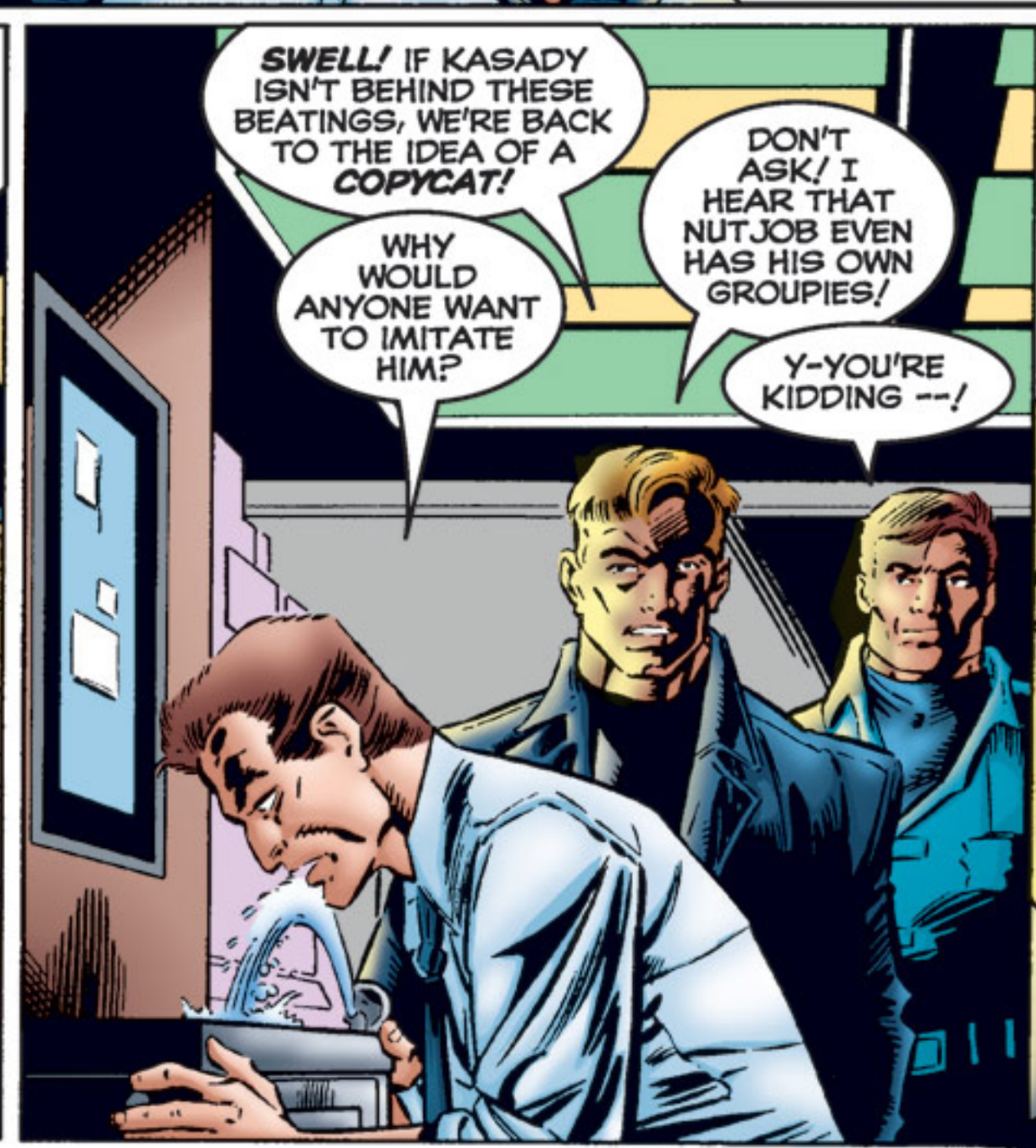

WITHOUT A DOUBT! STILL, THE FACT IS WE HAVE NO PROOF THE REAL CARNAGE -- CLETUS KASADY -- IS STILL IN CUSTODY!
EVEN IF HE IS, THE AUTHORITIES MAY HAVE THEIR OWN REASONS FOR RELEASING HIM AT NIGHT!

Buzz's theory isn't as WACK as it sounds!
Kasady is presently incarcerated in RAVENCROFT, a maximum security institution devoted to the study of the criminally insane!
If he's somehow discovered a way to secretly LEAVE and RETURN at will --
--it's the perfect HIDEOUT for him!

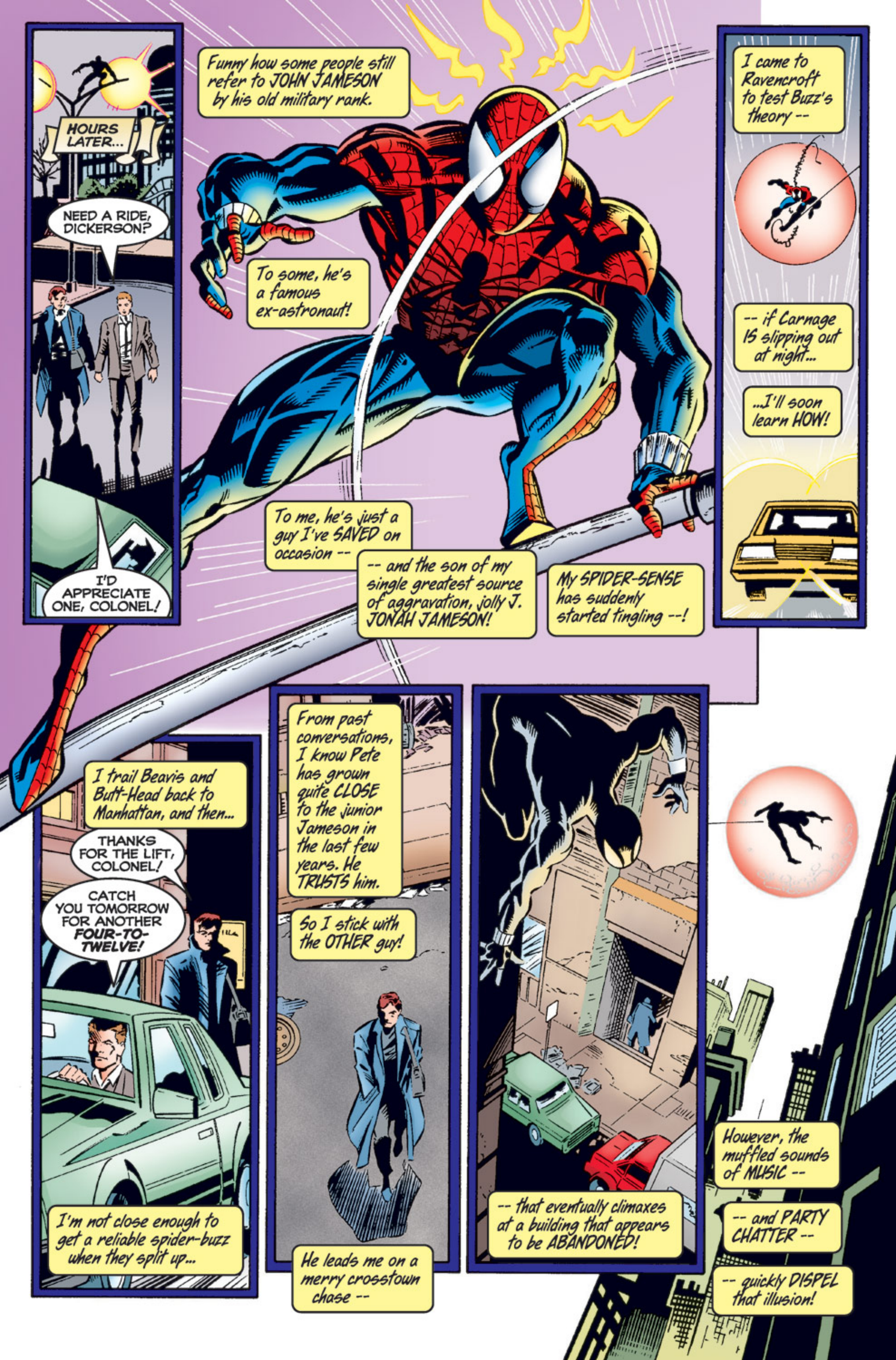

RAVENCROFT INSTITUTE...
KASADY HASN'T LEFT HIS CELL, DETECTIVE TREVANE.
CAN YOU PROVE IT, COLONEL JAMESON?
ALL OF OUR INMATES ARE MONITORED AND VIDEOTAPED TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY BY STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT.
PLUS: WE ALWAYS HAVE A TWO-MAN TEAM -- LIKE ME AND DICKERSON HERE -- WATCHING THE STORE!
CAN YOU GET ME DUPES OF KASADY'S TAPES FOR THE LAST TWO WEEKS?
NO PROBLEM...
" BUT I HOPE YOU DON'T BORE EASY. ENTERTAINING, THEY'RE NOT!

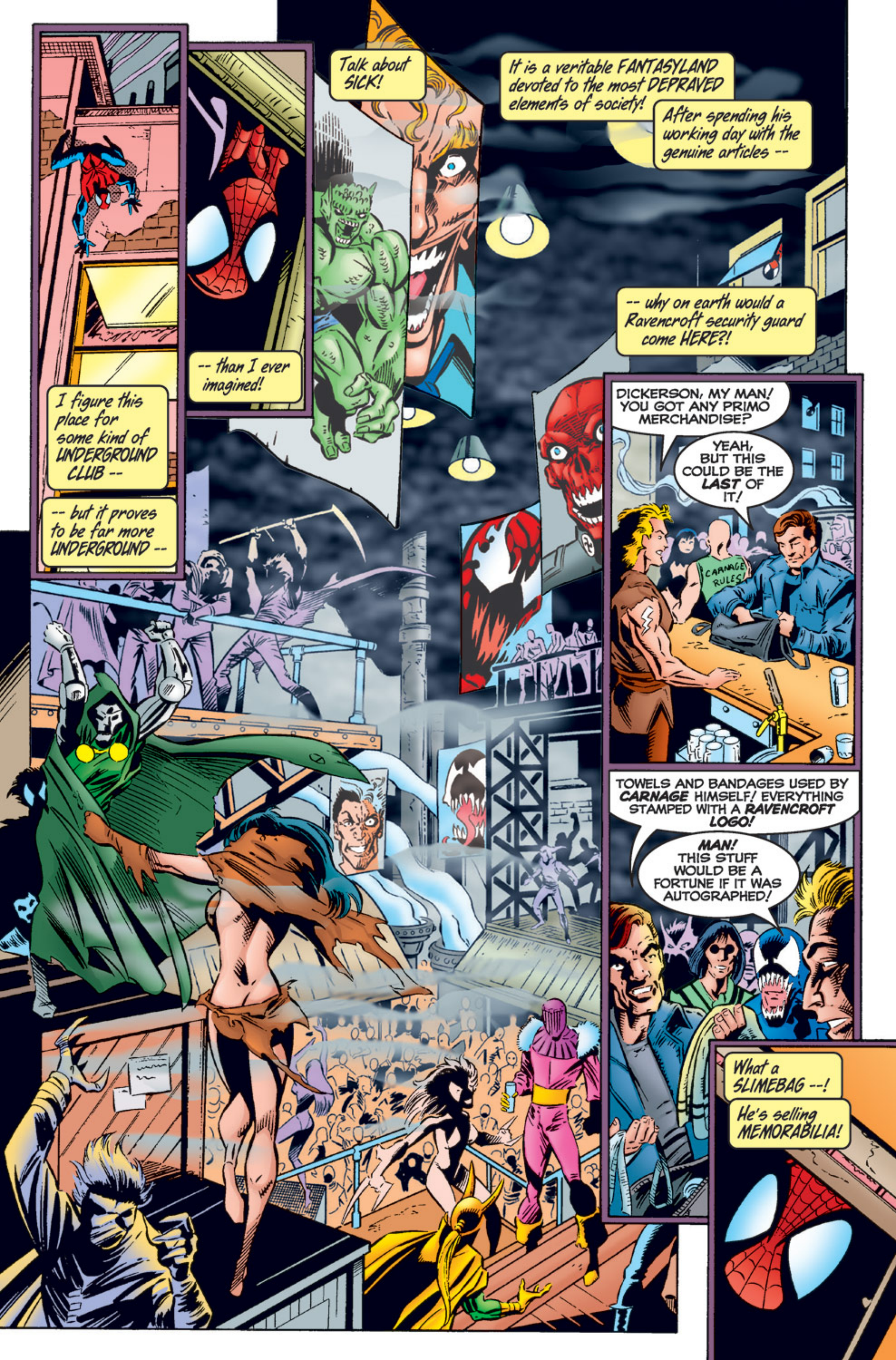

KASADY GET'S HIS CARNAGE-POWERS FROM SOME KIND OF ALIEN SYMBIOTE!
HOW DO YOU KEEP IT FROM BREAKING LOOSE?
HIS CELL IS CONSTRUCTED OF AN ARTIFICIAL ALLOY WHICH HAS A TENSILE STRENGTH TOUGHER THAN TITANIUM STEEL!
JUST TO BE SAFE, WE DOUBLE-LAYERED THE FLOOR, CEILING AND ALL THE WALLS --

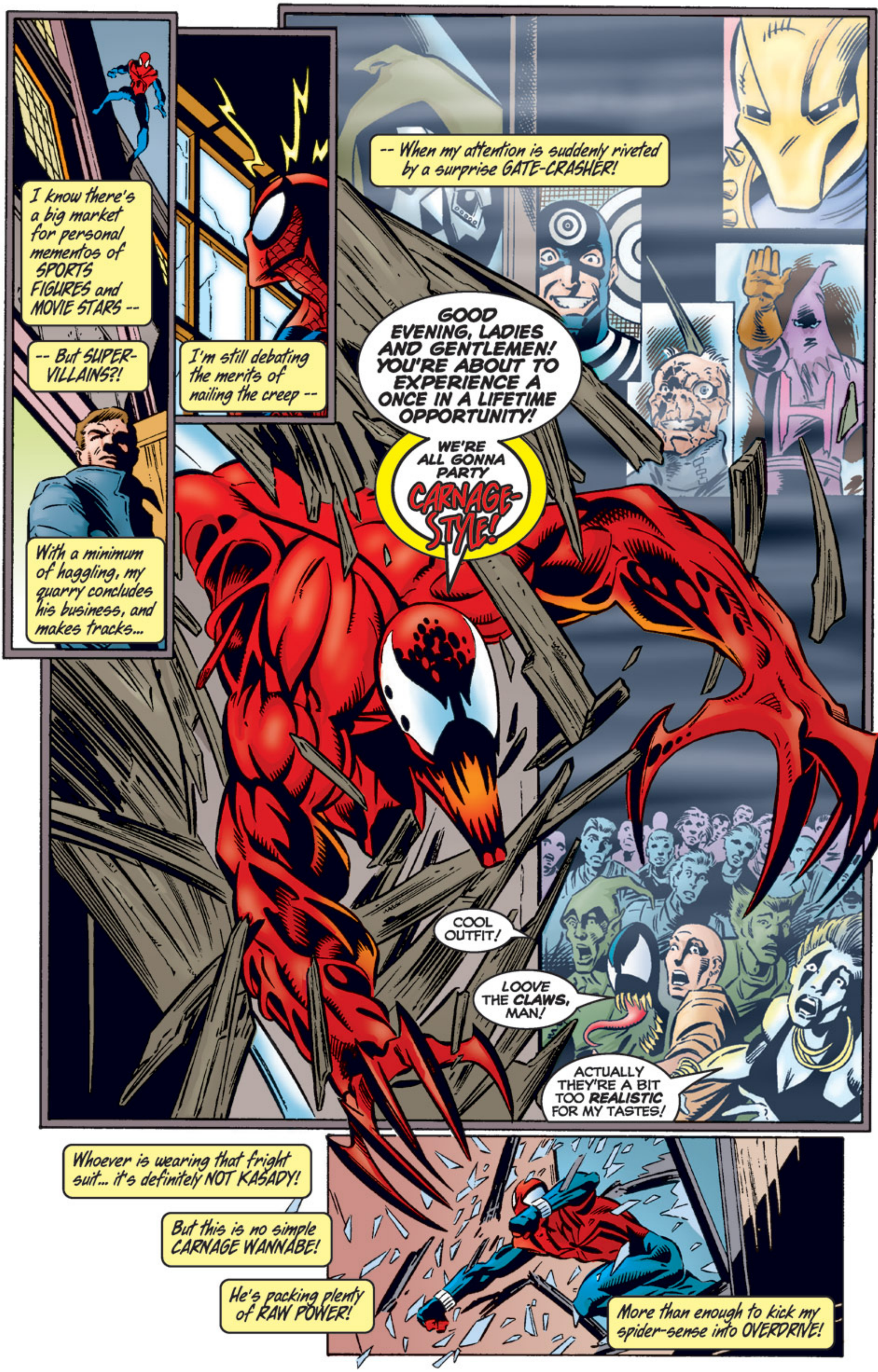
--AND WE PUMP A LETHAL DOSE OF MICROWAVES BETWEEN THE LAYERS -- JUST ENOUGH TO KEEP THE SYMBIOTE FROM ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE!
PUSH

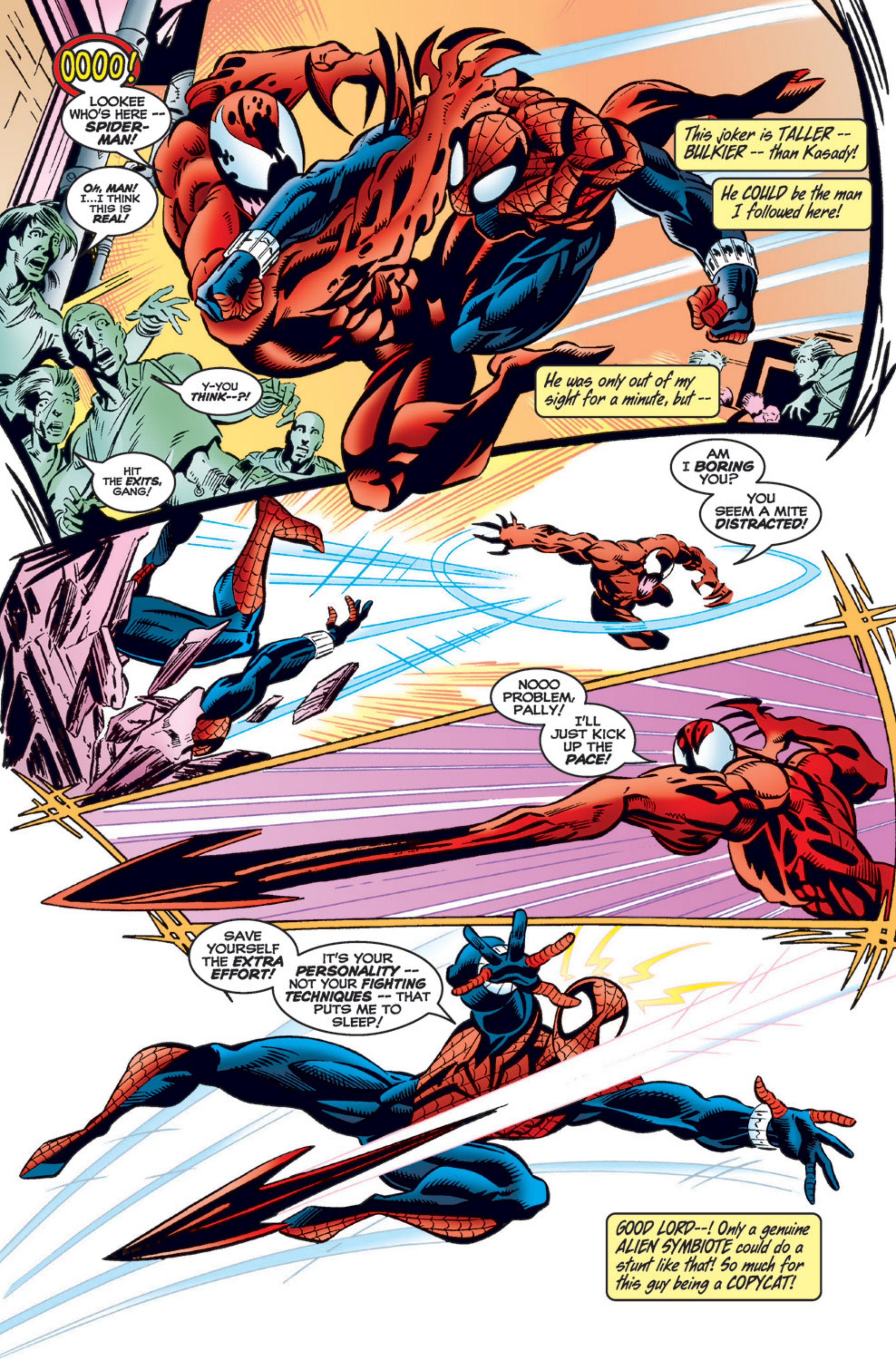

SWELL! IF KASADY ISN'T BEHIND THESE BEATINGS, WE'RE BACK TO THE IDEA OF A COPYCAT!
WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO IMITATE HIM?
DON'T ASK! I HEAR THAT NUTJOB EVEN HAS HIS OWN GROUPIES!
Y-YOU'RE KIDDING --!

NO LIE! YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW LOW SOME PEOPLE CAN SINK!

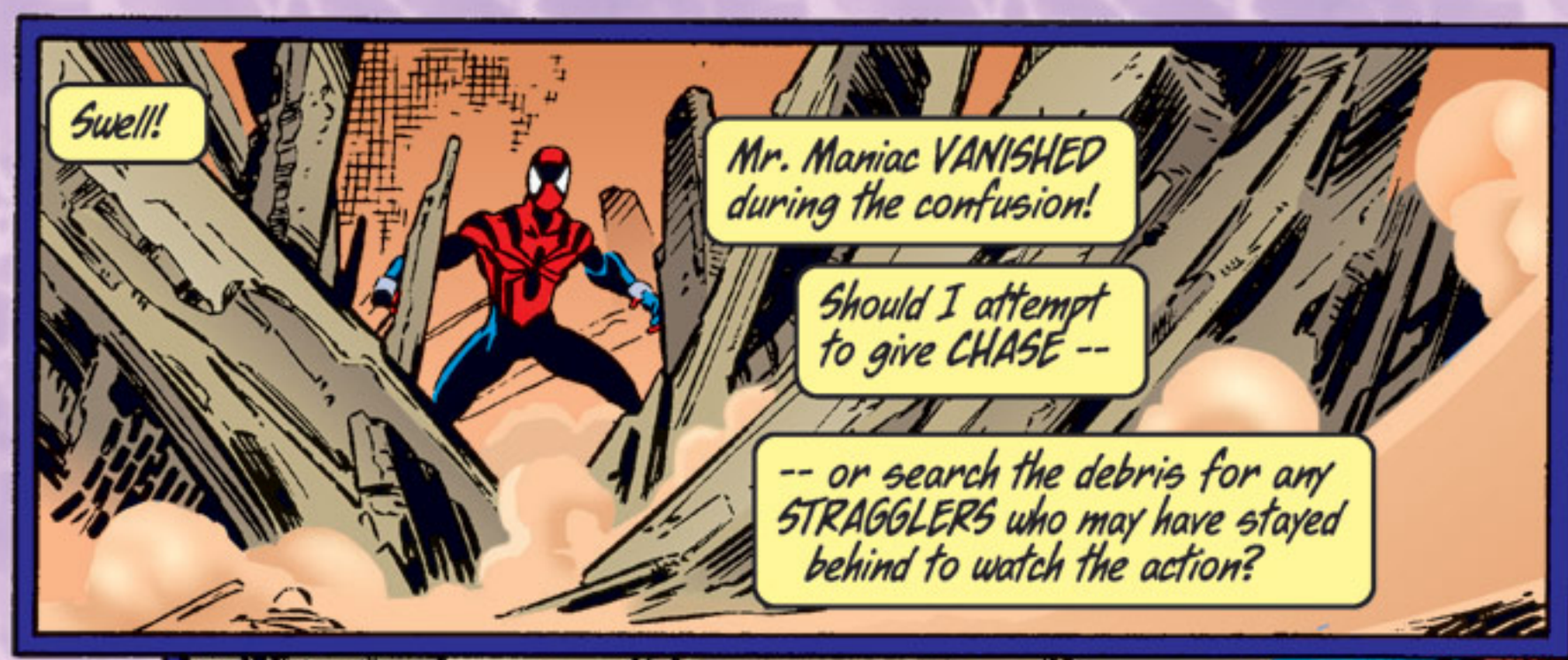

HOURS LATER...
NEED A RIDE, DICKERSON?
I'D APPRECIATE ONE, COLONEL!
Funny how some people still refer to JOHN JAMESON by his old military rank.
To some, he's a famous ex-astronaut!
To me, he's just a guy I've SAVED on occasion --
-- and the son of my single greatest source of aggravation, jolly J. JONAH JAMESON!
My SPIDER-SENSE has suddenly started tingling --!
I came to Ravencroft to test Buzz's theory --
-- if Carnage IS slipping out at night...
...I'll soon learn HOW!
I trail Beavis and Butt-Head back to Manhattan, and then...
THANKS FOR THE LIFT, COLONEL!
CATCH YOU TOMORROW FOR ANOTHER FOUR-TO-TWELVE!
I'm not close enough to get a reliable spider-buzz when they split up...
From past conversations, I know Pete has grown quite CLOSE to the junior Jameson in the last few years. He TRUSTS him.
So I stick with the OTHER guy!
He leads me on a merry crosstown chase --
-- that eventually climaxes at a building that appears to be ABANDONED!
However, the muffled sounds of MUSIC --
-- and PARTY CHATTER --
-- quickly DISPEL that illusion!


I figure this place for some kind of UNDERGROUND CLUB --
-- but it proves to be far more UNDERGROUND --
-- than I ever imagined!
Talk about SICK!
It is a veritable FANTASYLAND devoted to the most DEPRAVED elements of society!
After spending his working day with the genuine articles --
-- why on earth would a Ravencroft security guard come HERE?!
DICKERSON, MY MAN! YOU GOT ANY PRIMO MERCHANDISE?
YEAH, BUT THIS COULD BE THE LAST OF IT!
CARNAGE RULES!
TOWELS AND BANDAGES USED BY CARNAGE HIMSELF! EVERYTHING STAMPED WITH A RAVENCROFT LOGO!
MAN! THIS STUFF WOULD BE A FORTUNE IF IT WAS AUTOGRAPHED!
What a SLIMEBAG --!
He's selling MEMORABILIA!


I know there's a big market for personal mementos of SPORTS FIGURES and MOVIE STARS --
-- But SUPER-VILLAINS?!
With a minimum of haggling, my quarry concludes his business, and makes tracks...
I'm still debating the merits of nailing the creep --
-- When my attention is suddenly riveted by a surprise GATE-CRASHER!
GOOD EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! YOU'RE ABOUT TO EXPERIENCE A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY!
WE'RE ALL GONNA PARTY CARNAGE-STYLE!
COOL OUTFIT!
LOOVE THE CLAWS, MAN!
ACTUALLY THEY'RE A BIT TOO REALISTIC FOR MY TASTES!
Whoever is wearing that fright suit... it's definitely NOT KASADY!
But this is no simple CARNAGE WANNABE!
He's packing plenty of RAW POWER!
More than enough to kick my spider-sense into OVERDRIVE!


OOOO!
LOOKEE WHO'S HERE -- SPIDER-MAN!
Oh, MAN! I...I THINK THIS IS REAL!
Y-YOU THINK--?!
HIT THE EXITS, GANG!
This joker is TALLER -- BULKIER -- than Kasady!
He COULD be the man I followed here!
He was only out of my sight for a minute, but --
AM I BORING YOU?
YOU SEEM A MITE DISTRACTED!
NOOO PROBLEM, PALLY!
I'LL JUST KICK UP THE PACE!
SAVE YOURSELF THE EXTRA EFFORT!
IT'S YOUR PERSONALITY -- NOT YOUR FIGHTING TECHNIQUES -- THAT PUTS ME TO SLEEP!
GOOD LORD--! Only a genuine ALIEN SYMBIOTE could do a stunt like that! So much for this guy being a COPYCAT!

Got to pull out ALL the stops!
SPLWOK
This wackjob could be as deadly as VENOM or the real CARNAGE!
For a club devoted to the DARKER SIDE of the spandex set it sure cleared out FAST when one of 'em shows up IN THE FLESH!
KWAKK
Like many other things in life, psychos have more appeal in THEORY than in PRACTICE!
I CONGRATULATE YOU, LITTLE MAN. I ALMOST FELT THAT PUNCH.
YOU MAY PROVE AN AMUSING DIVERSION AFTER ALL!
UNFORTUNATELY, THIS PARTICULAR EVENING GROWS LATE --
-- AND I MUST RUN!
Oh, NO! He shattered that support beam, and --
QUA-POOM


Swell!
Mr. Maniac VANISHED during the confusion!
Should I attempt to give CHASE --
-- or search the debris for any STRAGGLERS who may have stayed behind to watch the action?

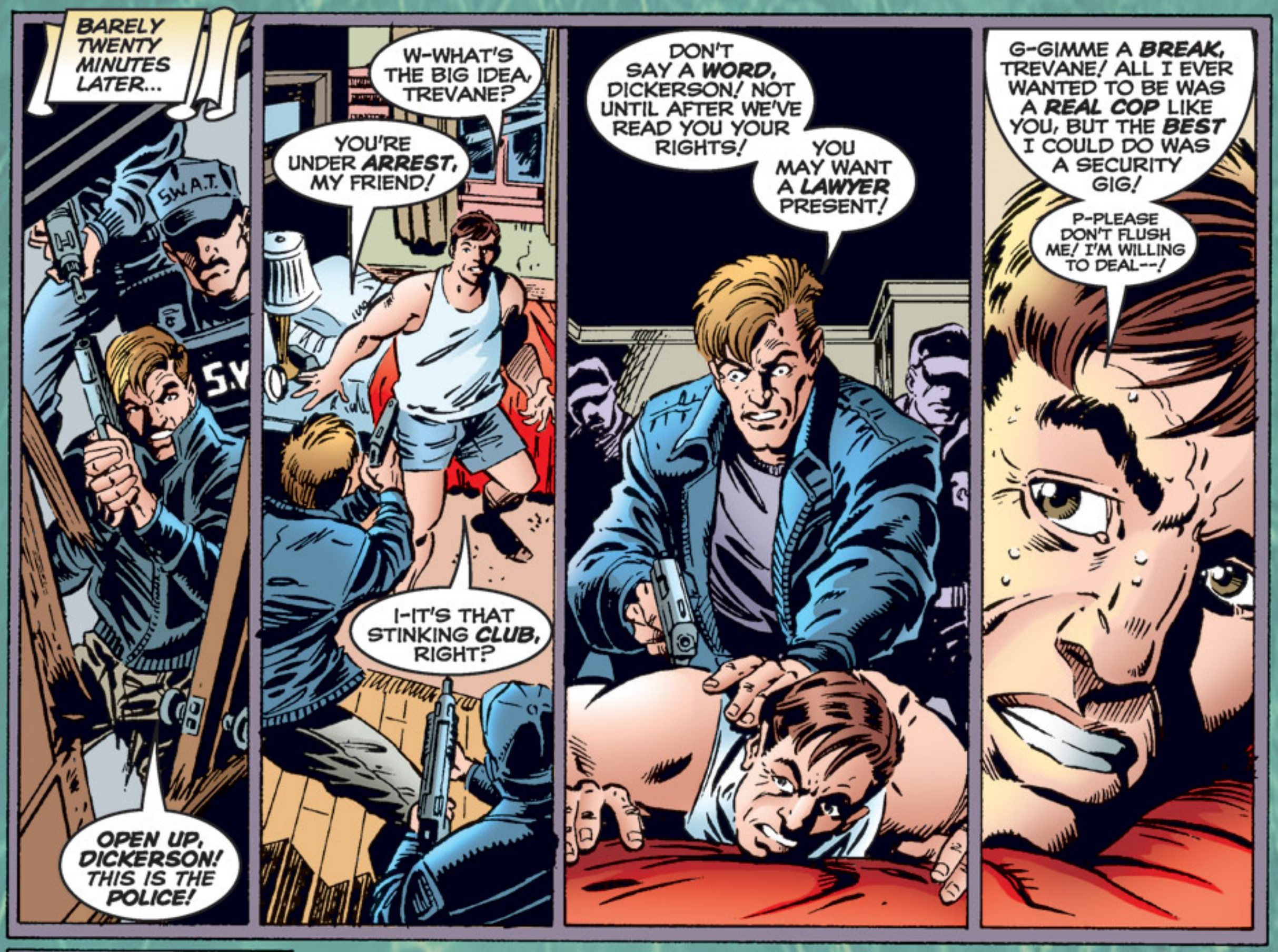
Uh... A LITTLE HELP OVER HERE!
That voice! it sounds like --

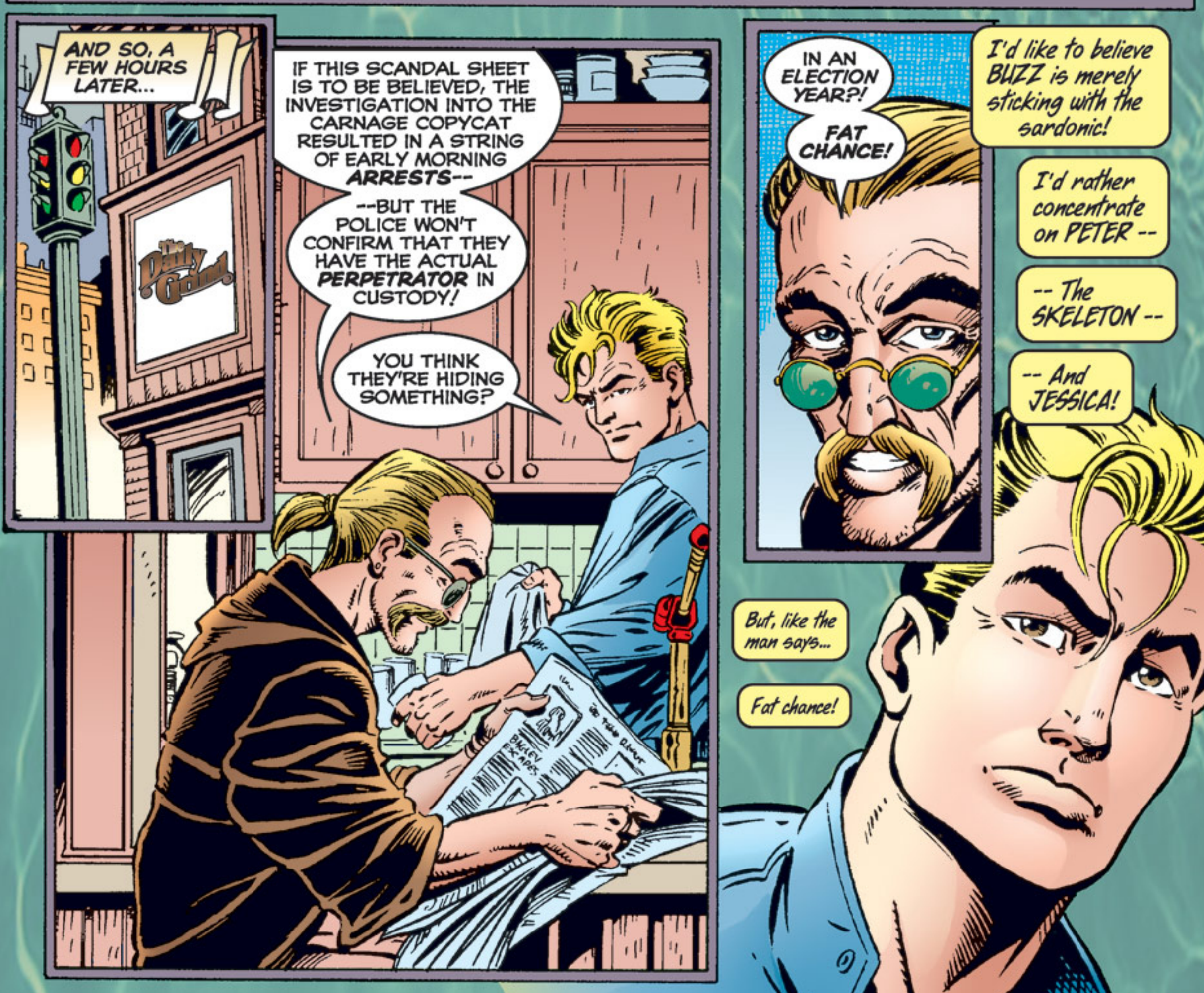
DETECTIVE CONNOR TREVANE!
I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT YOUR TASTES RAN MORE TO CLASSIC ROCK THAN ALTERNATIVE CLUBS!
YUK! YUK!
JUST SO THERE'S NO MISUNDERSTANDING... I CAME HERE TO TAG DICKERSON!

DICKERSON --?
A SECURITY GUARD AT RAVENCROFT WHO'S BEEN TRAFFICKING IN STOLEN SOUVENIRS!
I INTENDED TO PRESSURE HIM IN CASE HE KNOWS MORE THAN HE'S TELLING ABOUT THE CARNAGE COPYCAT!

YOU'D BETTER SCOOT BEFORE MY BACK-UP ARRIVES!
SOME EAGER BEAVER MAY WANT TO QUESTION YOU ABOUT THAT SKELETON THAT IS ALLEGEDLY MISSING FROM THE MORGUE!
Uh... THANKS!
IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO...

I STILL OWE YOU... THAT'S IF YOU'RE THE SAME SPIDER-MAN WHO SAVED MY SON A FEW MONTHS BACK!
THE COSTUME MAY BE NEW, BUT I'M STILL THE ORIGINAL WALL-CRAWLER!
Okay, so maybe I'm fudging the truth. Considering the circumstances, I doubt PETE will mind if I claim his save!


BARELY TWENTY MINUTES LATER...
OPEN UP, DICKERSON! THIS IS THE POLICE!
W-WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, TREVANE?
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, MY FRIEND!
I-IT'S THAT STINKING CLUB, RIGHT?
DON'T SAY A WORD, DICKERSON! NOT UNTIL AFTER WE'VE READ YOU YOUR RIGHTS!
YOU MAY WANT A LAWYER PRESENT!
G-GIMME A BREAK, TREVANE! ALL I EVER WANTED TO BE WAS A REAL COP LIKE YOU, BUT THE BEST I COULD DO WAS A SECURITY GIG!
P-PLEASE DON'T FLUSH ME! I'M WILLING TO DEAL--!


AND SO, A FEW HOURS LATER...
The Daily Grind
IF THIS SCANDAL SHEET IS TO BE BELIEVED, THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE CARNAGE COPYCAT RESULTED IN A STRING OF EARLY MORNING ARRESTS--
--BUT THE POLICE WON'T CONFIRM THAT THEY HAVE THE ACTUAL PERPETRATOR IN CUSTODY!
YOU THINK THEY'RE HIDING SOMETHING?
IN AN ELECTION YEAR?!
FAT CHANCE!
I'd like to believe BUZZ is merely sticking with the sardonic!
I'd rather concentrate on PETER --
-- The SKELETON --
-- And JESSICA!
But, like the man says...
Fat chance!

AND, SPEAKING OF BEN REILLY'S OTHER PROBLEMS...

PETER, I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU INSIST ON CONFRONTING SEWARD TRAINER!

BEN AND I ORIGINALLY USED HIS EQUIPMENT TO DETERMINE WHICH OF US WAS A CLONE OF THE OTHER!

SEE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #226. – Clone-Bob!

THE INFORMATION WE LEARNED ABOUT THE SKELETON CASTS SERIOUS DOUBTS ON OUR CONCLUSIONS!

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK SEWARD WILL EVEN AGREE TO SEE YOU?

THAT'S EASY, MARY JANE. I PHONED AHEAD FOR AN APPOINTMENT!

HOSPITAL SWITCHBOARD --?

PLEASE CONNECT ME WITH ONE OF YOUR PATIENTS -- SEWARD TRAINER!

Y-YES...OF COURSE... I... RECOGNIZE YOUR VOICE!

I... UNDERSTAND!

IS SOMETHING WRONG, Mr. TRAINER? YOU SUDDENLY LOOK PALE!

I... Uh... I NEED A FAVOR, NURSE.

PLEASE INFORM THE FRONT DESK THAT --

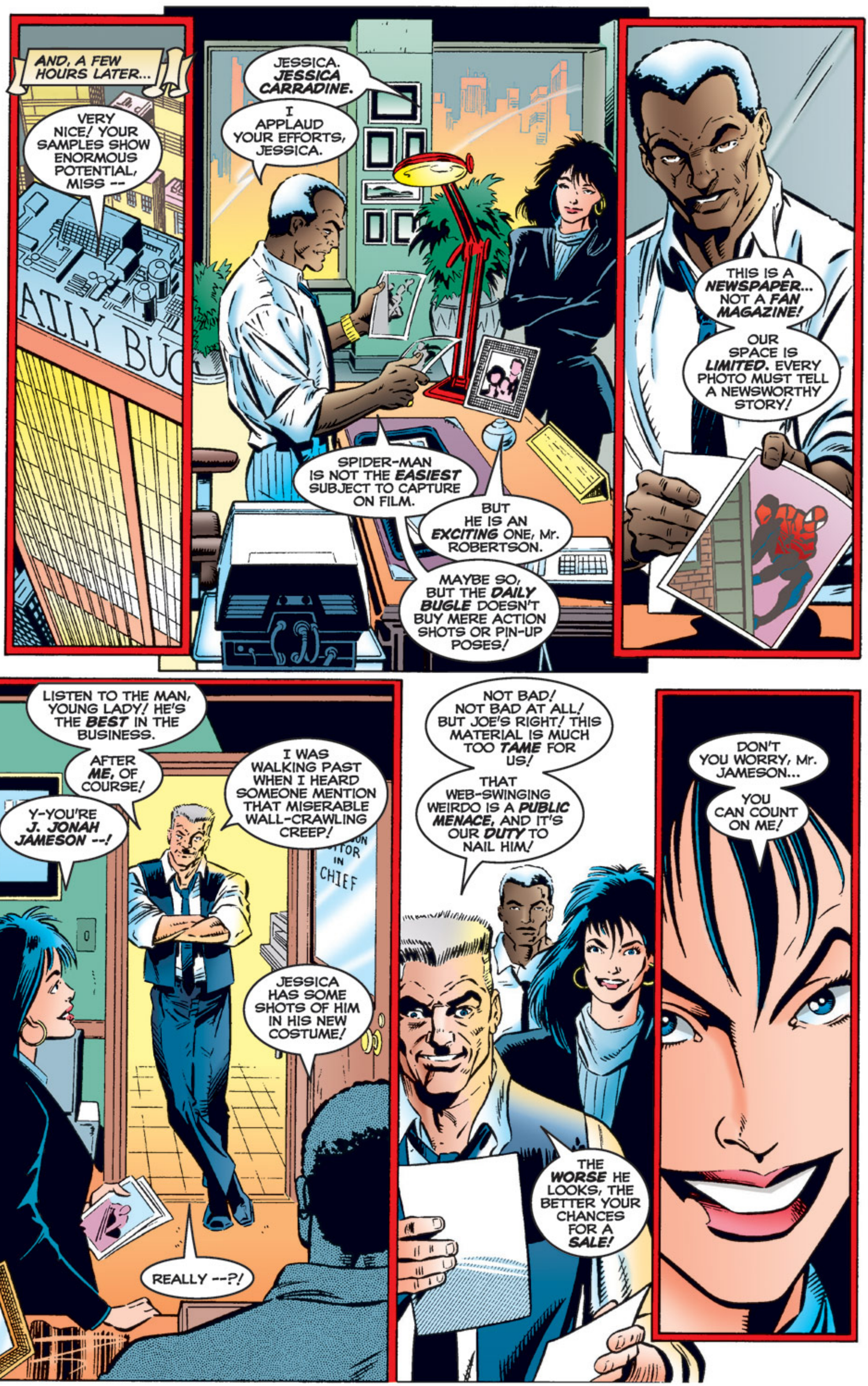
-- I AM UNABLE TO ISSUE YOUR VISITOR PASSES! THE PATIENT HAD A MINOR SETBACK, AND CANNOT RECEIVE GUESTS AT THIS TIME!

B-BUT HE WAS FINE WHEN WE SPOKE EARLIER!

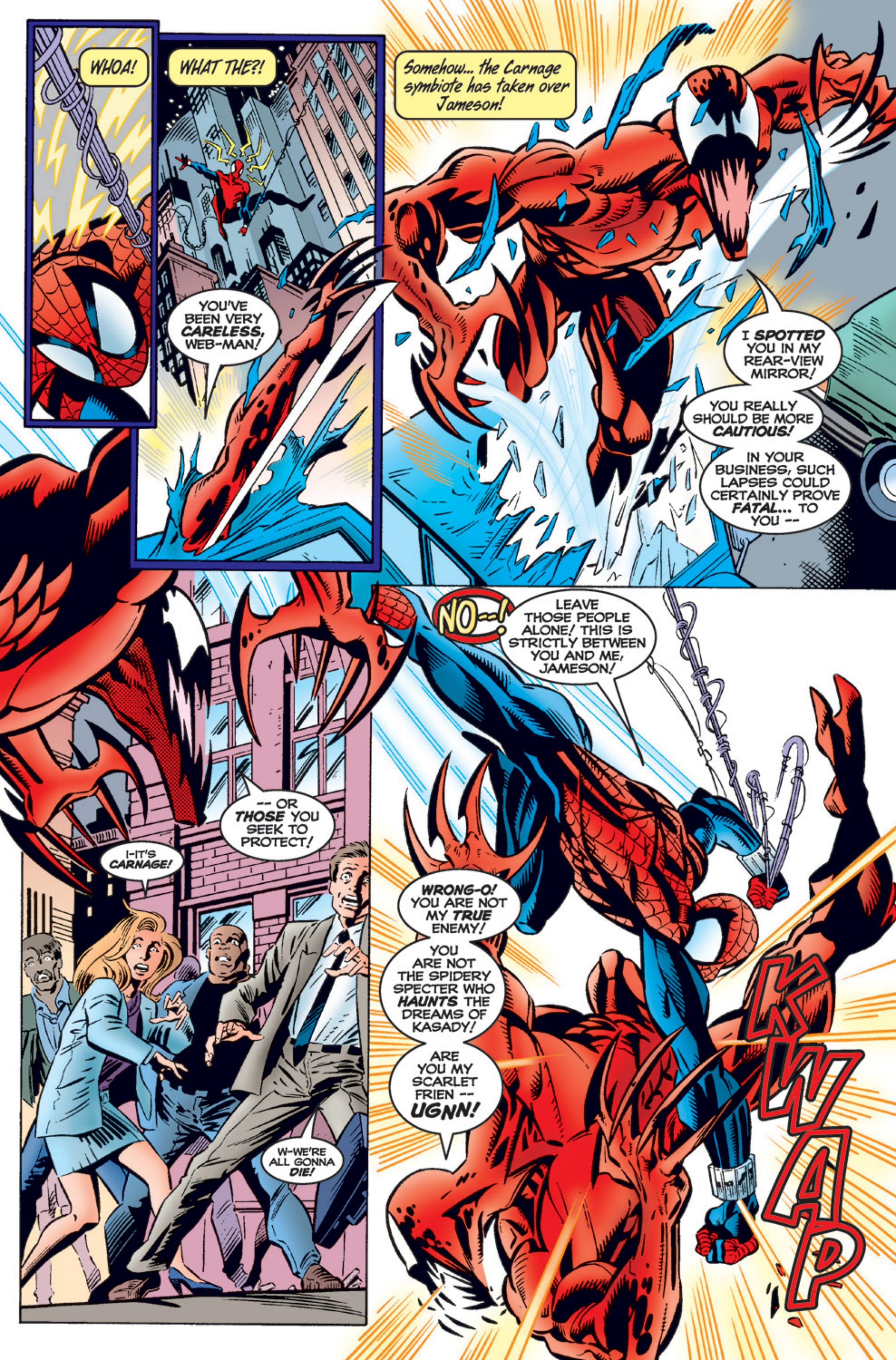
COMPLICATIONS SOMETIMES ARISE. TRY AGAIN TOMORROW.

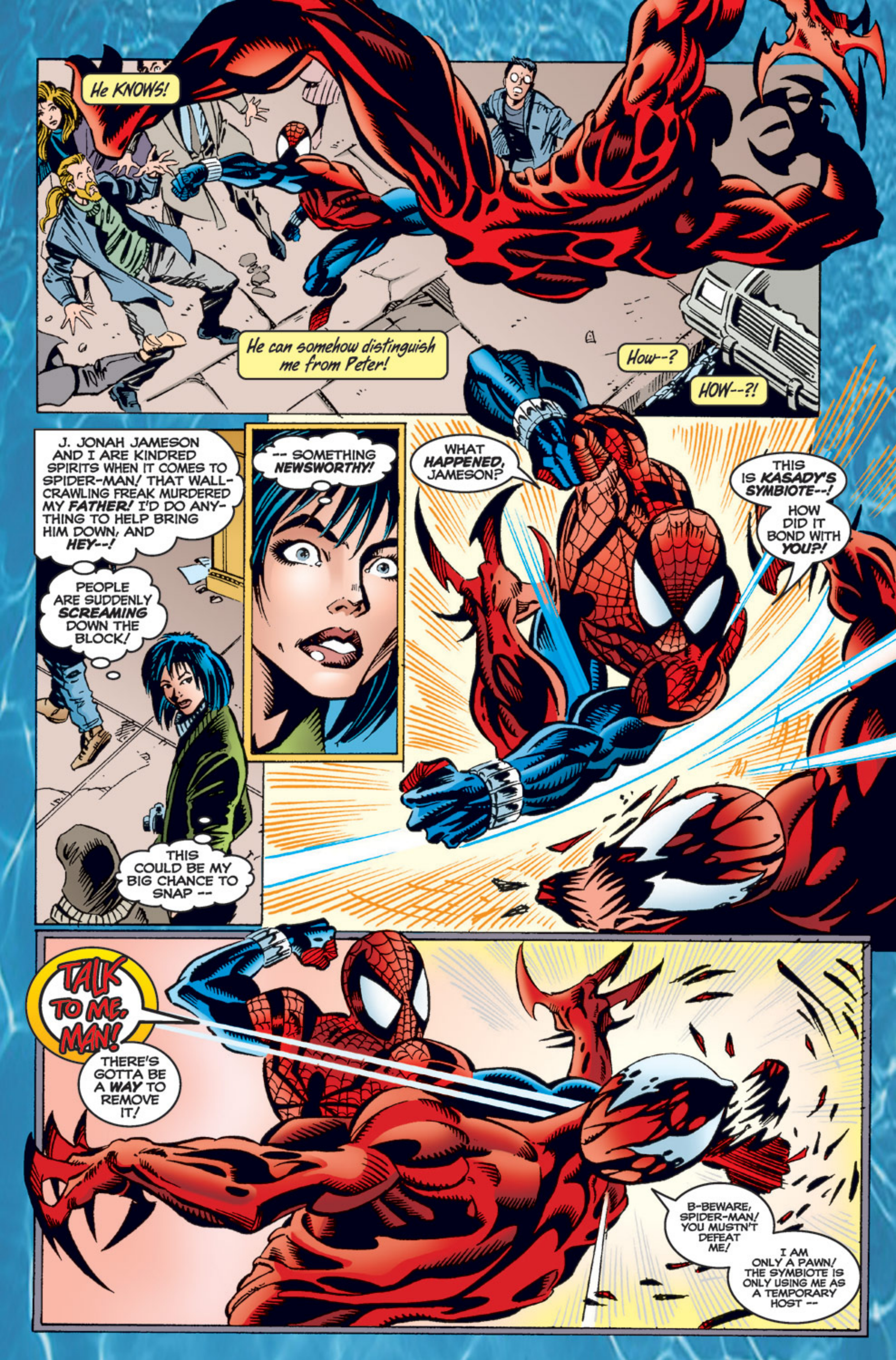
YEAH... SURE!

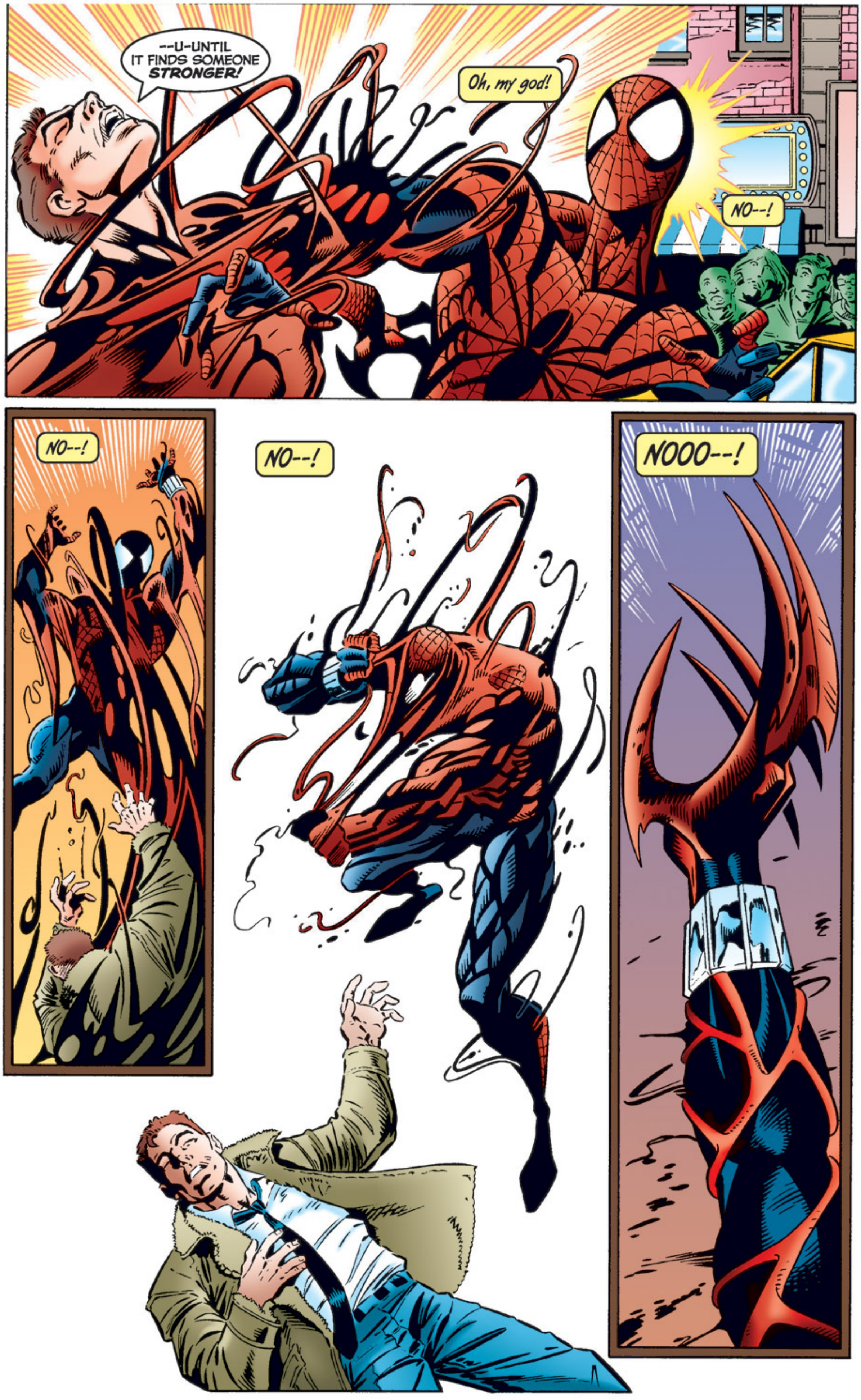
IS SEWARD DELIBERATELY DUCKING ME? WHY?! WHAT'S HE HIDING?


AND, A FEW HOURS LATER...
VERY NICE! YOUR SAMPLES SHOW ENORMOUS POTENTIAL, MISS --
JESSICA. JESSICA CARRADINE.
I APPLAUD YOUR EFFORTS, JESSICA.
SPIDER-MAN IS NOT THE EASIEST SUBJECT TO CAPTURE ON FILM.
BUT HE IS AN EXCITING ONE, Mr. ROBERTSON.
MAYBE SO, BUT THE DAILY BUGLE DOESN'T BUY MERE ACTION SHOTS OR PIN-UP POSES!
THIS IS A NEWSPAPER... NOT A FAN MAGAZINE!
OUR SPACE IS LIMITED. EVERY PHOTO MUST TELL A NEWSWORTHY STORY!
LISTEN TO THE MAN, YOUNG LADY! HE'S THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS.
AFTER ME, OF COURSE!
Y-YOU'RE J. JONAH JAMESON --!
I WAS WALKING PAST WHEN I HEARD SOMEONE MENTION THAT MISERABLE WALL-CRAWLING CREEP!
JESSICA HAS SOME SHOTS OF HIM IN HIS NEW COSTUME!
REALLY --?!
NOT BAD! NOT BAD AT ALL! BUT JOE'S RIGHT! THIS MATERIAL IS MUCH TOO TAME FOR US!
THAT WEB-SWINGING WEIRDO IS A PUBLIC MENACE, AND IT'S OUR DUTY TO NAIL HIM!
THE WORSE HE LOOKS, THE BETTER YOUR CHANCES FOR A SALE!
DON'T YOU WORRY, Mr. JAMESON...
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!

SOMETIME LATER...
ALMOST MIDNIGHT, AND OUR BOY IS AT IT, AGAIN!
I WAS SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT DICKERSON!
YEAH... YOU THINK YOU KNOW SOMEONE --! THANKS FOR TAKING HIS SHIFT AT THE LAST MOMENT, PHIL.
THE OVERTIME WILL COME IN HANDY. YOU CAN LEAVE WHENEVER YOU WANT. I SEE STEVENS HEADING DOWN THE HALLWAY.
There's Jameson!
Right on schedule!
Peter would freak if he knew I was dogging his bud!
TOUGH!
I had a hunch that the Carnage-like character I ran into last night was somehow connected to RAVENCROFT --
-- and, from the way my spider- sense is buzzing, I may have hit the JACKPOT!
I've gotta get to the bottom of this mystery so that I can devote myself to figuring out where I stand with JESSICA --
-- And to healing the RIFT that seems to be growing between me and Pete over Seward Trainer!
I trust Seward IMPLICITLY...

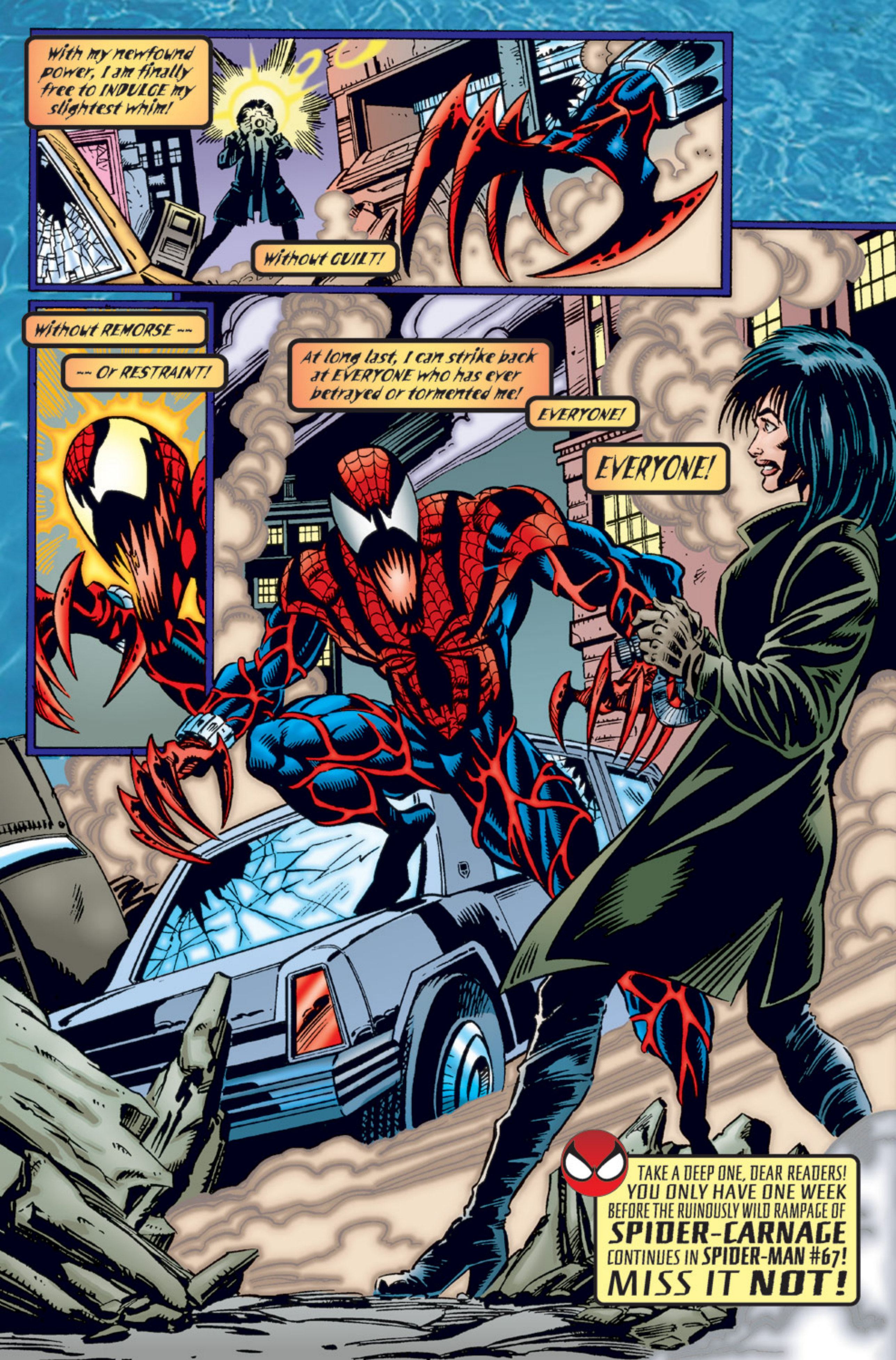

WHOA!
WHAT THE?!
YOU'VE BEEN VERY CARELESS, WEB-MAN!
Somehow... the Carnage symbiote has taken over Jameson!
I SPOTTED YOU IN MY REAR-VIEW MIRROR!
YOU REALLY SHOULD BE MORE CAUTIOUS!
IN YOUR BUSINESS, SUCH LAPSES COULD CERTAINLY PROVE FATAL... TO YOU --
NO--!
LEAVE THOSE PEOPLE ALONE! THIS IS STRICTLY BETWEEN YOU AND ME, JAMESON!
-- OR THOSE YOU SEEK TO PROTECT!
I-IT'S CARNAGE!
W-WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE!
WRONG-O! YOU ARE NOT MY TRUE ENEMY!
YOU ARE NOT THE SPIDERY SPECTER WHO HAUNTS THE DREAMS OF KASADY!
ARE YOU MY SCARLET FRIEN -- UGNN!
KAP


He KNOWS!
He can somehow distinguish me from Peter!
How--?
HOW--?!
J. JONAH JAMESON AND I ARE KINDRED SPIRITS WHEN IT COMES TO SPIDER-MAN! THAT WALL-CRAWLING FREAK MURDERED MY FATHER! I'D DO ANYTHING TO HELP BRING HIM DOWN, AND HEY--!
PEOPLE ARE SUDDENLY SCREAMING DOWN THE BLOCK!
THIS COULD BE MY BIG CHANCE TO SNAP --
-- SOMETHING NEWSWORTHY!
WHAT HAPPENED, JAMESON?
THIS IS KASADY'S SYMBIOTE--!
HOW DID IT BOND WITH YOU?!
TALK TO ME, MAN!
THERE'S GOTTA BE A WAY TO REMOVE IT!
B-BEWARE, SPIDER-MAN! YOU MUSTN'T DEFEAT ME!
I AM ONLY A PAWN! THE SYMBIOTE IS ONLY USING ME AS A TEMPORARY HOST --


--U-UNTIL IT FINDS SOMEONE STRONGER!
Oh, my god!
NO--!
NO--!
NO--!
NOOO--!

Yesss!
I am reborn in BLOOD and AGONY!
I am remade into the bringer of DEATH and DESTRUCTION!
CHAOS is my only love---
And CARNAGE is my name!

FDNY
FREE am I!
Free from the LAWS of man!
Free from the petty RESTRICTIONS of a deceitful and dying society!
Free from the burdensome RESPONSIBILITIES that have long dulled my life ---
--- And DENIED me even the slightest hope for happiness!
IT'S HIM! SPIDER-MAN IS GOING TOTALLY BERSERK, AND HE'S ACTING LIKE THE MONSTER I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN HE WAS!
GET OUT YOUR CHECKBOOK, JJJ --
-- YOUR GREATEST FANTASY WILL SOON BE RECORDED FOR POSTERITY!
NIKONKA
HA, HA, HAA!


With my newfound power, I am finally free to INDULGE my slightest whim!
Without GUILT!
Without REMORSE ---
--- Or RESTRAINT!
At long last, I can strike back at EVERYONE who has ever betrayed or tormented me!
EVERYONE!
EVERYONE!
TAKE A DEEP ONE, DEAR READERS! YOU ONLY HAVE ONE WEEK BEFORE THE RUINOUSLY WILD RAMPAGE OF SPIDER-CARNAGE CONTINUES IN SPIDER-MAN #67! MISS IT NOT!